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MIKE CAUSEY

THE FEDERAL DIARY

The Grandfather of All Retirement Disputes

Legislation that would raise the retirement age for government employees from 55 to 65 is bogged down on the administration's drawing board. Reason: A dispute between the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Management and Budget over grandfathering rights for current government workers.

Under the president's proposal, federal workers (who can now retire at 55 with 30 years service) would have to work until age 65 to get their full annuity, regardless of how much time they have in government. At present, those people can retire with an annuity equal to just over 56 percent of the average of their highest three years of salary.

If the president's plan is approved by Congress, a person's annuity would be reduced by 5 percent a year for each year the employee was under age 65 when he retired.

The OPM wants to grandfather-in anybody who is 55 or older at the time of enactment of the legislation regardless of how much time they have in government. That would mean anyone 55 or older (when the bill became law) could continue to work and retire before 65 without penalty—as long as they satisfied the requirements now in effect.

But some OMB officials are pushing a harder line. They would grandfather only those workers who are 55 with 30 years service at the time of enactment. In other words, people who were 55 with less than 30 years service would be subject to the new retirement age and penalties for retiring before age 65.

The bill—which also includes other changes in the retirement system—will not be introduced until the OPM vs. OMB squabble is settled.

Jobs: Small Business Administration is looking for a position classification specialist, Grade 11 or 12. Call Ronald Dixon at 653-6504.

Drug Enforcement Administration wants

town wants a GS 12 computer systems analyst. Call Vivian L. Mackey at 634-7357.

Society of Federal Labor Relations Professionals will have a cocktail party Feb. 17 at the Hay-Adams. Call Emmett Aldrich for information at 634-4718.

Daniel Levinson, 33, is the new deputy general counsel at OPM. Before joining OPM, Levinson was with the law firm of McGuiness & Williams here.

Summer Jobs: High school and college students who want June-to-September work with Uncle Sam need to get moving. Most of the hiring is done directly by agencies, although the Office of Personnel Management (1900 E St. NW) does have some summer job information.

Deadlines for applying for jobs vary by agency. Some deadlines have passed, but in most cases job hunters still have time to apply. Most of the jobs require applicants to fill out a Standard Form 171, and an OPM Form 1170/17.

Recommended reading for job hunters is the new summer jobs guide from Federal Jobs Inc. It is in tabloid form, and available by calling (703) 471-1417.

National Association of Retired Federal Employees Wheaton-Glenmont chapter meets Feb. 17 (7:30 p.m.) at the Wheaton Library. Bob Honig, staff director of the Federal Government Service Task Force, is the speaker.

Norman Painter is the new president of the AFGE union local at U.S. Information Agency. He succeeds Abe Harris.

Handling Political Situations: The Senior Executives Association and Professional Development League will have a workshop (Feb. 24-25) at the Twin Bridges Marriott. Subject is how career executives deal with elected and appointed officials. Members of Congress and Capitol

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